

Environmental Health



"I believe that clean neighborhoods contribute to positive attitudes and a healthier, safer environment for everyone."

- Shane Hackworth
Code Enforcement







The mission of the Environmental Health Department is protecting people and preserving a safe environment by enforcing environmental standards in the City of Wichita and the surrounding area.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Wichita Area Treatment, Education, and Remediation (WATER) Center – Treatment of contaminated groundwater from the Gilbert-Mosley area commenced with opening of the facility. The WATER Center also serves as a water quality and environmental education resource, providing classroom space, and exhibits. A joint effort of the Environmental Health, Public Works, and Park Departments, the innovative facility received numerous design awards. These include the Kansas Wildlife Federation Water Conservationist of the Year, Kansas Chapter of the American Concrete Institute Technical Innovation Award, Kansas Consulting Engineers Engineering Excellence Award, and the American Council of Engineering Consultants Honor Award.

Phase I of the Arkansas River Water Quality Study – A cooperative effort involving the Water and Sewer Department and Environmental Health, utilizing funding support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, resulted in a comprehensive assessment of point and area sources of pollution affecting the Arkansas River. Phase II planning, involving development of strategies to reduce pollutant load, is currently under way.

City Manager's Air Quality Task Force – This collaboration of local government, business and industry, and citizen groups was formed to study the status of and threats to the Wichita metropolitan area's air quality. The task force's final report, including recommendations for maintenance of Wichita's designation as an attainment area for federal air quality standards, has been issued. The task force and department staff continue their work in implementing the recommendations.

Joint Neighborhood Code Enforcement – The Department of Environmental Health, Office of Central Inspection, and Wichita Police Department initiated joint enforcement of city codes targeted toward maintenance and improvement of residential neighborhoods. The Law, Public Works, Fire, and Finance Departments also provided substantial input and assistance for the project. Cross training for employees, shared databases, and protocols for communication allow initiation of cases by Environmental Health, Office of Central Inspection, and Police staff. Follow-up and nuisance abatement responsibilities are delineated by violation type.

Environmental Compliance – Coordination of the City's internal environmental compliance efforts was implemented.

Preliminary efforts included establishment of departmental liaisons, environmental compliance training for management and supervisory staff, and initiation of internal audits.

DEPARTMENT OBJECTIVES

1. Administrative and Support Services

- a. ***Internal restructuring and position reclassification:*** Departmental responsibilities and functions have evolved over time, as have staff duties and necessary qualifications. As a result, the current structure of the department may require modification, and evaluation of position descriptions is necessary. In cooperation with the Personnel Office and the Department of Finance, Environmental Health management will develop and submit proposals.
Progress Measure: Position reclassification studies completed, submission of reorganization proposals.
- b. ***Improvement of office automation and business processes:*** Current use of electronic technology for maintenance of records and generation of management information is not optimal. In conjunction with IT/IS personnel, Staff will investigate use of new technology, including field-based systems. With assistance from the City's internal auditor and other staff, department personnel will review and evaluate business processes for major programs.
Progress Measure: Business process evaluations completed, technology updates identified.
- c. ***Enhancement and consolidation of environmental education efforts:*** Multiple City departments currently are involved in environmental or natural resource education. Environmental Health proposes assessment of these functions, and development of a coordinated plan to maximize resources, reduce duplication of efforts, and increase service levels relative to cost.
Progress Measure: Completion of study, submission of proposal.



2. Community Environmental Services

- a. **Animal Control – Animal shelter CIP implementation:** The City Council has approved construction of a new animal shelter in the Capital Improvement Program. Staff and management are currently involved in discussions with the Kansas Humane Society concerning the opportunities for co-located facilities and greater coordination of programs. Necessary efforts for project implementation include development of a memorandum of understanding with KHS for Council approval, evaluation of similar partnerships, development of a design and construction plan, architect designation and design, and facility construction.

Progress Measure: Completion of designated tasks in accordance with the project timeline.

- b. **Food Protection - Program improvement plan:** In cooperation with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Environmental Health staff have evaluated local food protection efforts relative to U.S. Food and Drug Administration model program recommendations. A program improvement plan has been developed, focusing on staff training and inspection quality assurance.

Progress Measure: Completion of plan elements and joint evaluation by EH and KDHE.

3. Environmental Compliance

- a. **Front line employee training:** Environmental compliance training has been provided for most management and supervisory staff in departments conducting activities with significant environmental impact. This activity will be expanded to include front line employees with a need for awareness of environmental consequences of their job duties.

Progress Measure: Number of employees receiving training.

- b. **Routine internal audits:** Establishment of routine internal audits, by Environmental Health staff or personnel assigned to the departments involved, will allow proactive environmental compliance management of the City's activities.

Progress Measure: Audits conducted, audits completed without detection of significant deficiencies.

4. Environmental Protection

- a. **Environmental Assessment & Remediation - Completion of Gilbert-Mosley/WATER Center operations and management plan:** Staff will create a request for proposals for routine sampling of the Gilbert-Mosley area, draft staffing plans for WATER Center remediation and education functions, and develop memorandum of understanding for physical plant operation.

Progress Measure: Completion of component tasks.

- b. **Air Quality - Reduction of ozone levels in ambient air:** Efforts to reduce ozone levels will allow compliance with new standards issued by the U.S. EPA, and continued designation as an "attainment area." Environmental Health staff will coordinate implementation of the Air Quality Task Force recommendations.

Progress Measure: Maximum ozone levels sampled in ambient air, expressed as a percentage of EPA standards.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES (currently retaining)

| Dept. Objective | Program Measure Description | 2001 Actual | 2002 Actual | 2003 Actual | 2004 Projected | 2005 Projected |
|--------------------|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2 | Tobacco compliance rate – refusal to sell to minors | 92.60% | 85.24% | 90.95% | 90.00% | 90.00% |
| 2a | Response rate to requests for animal service | 98.21% | 97.01% | 89.15% | 90.00% | 90.00% |
| 2b | Inspections of food establishments | 2631 | 3043 | 3327 | 3400 | 4000 |
| 3 | Initial and re-licensure surveys | NA | 1158 | 1150 | 1150 | 1150 |
| 4 | Neighborhood clean up projects | 64 | 58 | 53 | 55 | 55 |
| 4 | Nuisance abatement costs | \$96,870 | \$174,978 | \$145,041 | \$170,000 | \$170,000 |
| 4 | Water Samples | 1628 | 1426 | 993 | 1000 | 1000 |
| 4a | Environmental Education Programs | NA | NA | 63 | 80 | 80 |
| 4b | Air pollution complaint investigations | 27 | 25 | 66 | 50 | 50 |



OVERVIEW

In a collaborative effort to more closely align similar services and clients, the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County shifted Preventive Health Services under the umbrella of County administration, while the City of Wichita retained the administration of Environmental Health beginning with fiscal 2002. The Environmental Health Department, previously a division of the former consolidated Community Health Department, remains a component in the overall City/County health program.

The Department is responsible for air quality control, water quality control, animal control, environmental code enforcement, food protection and tobacco control and licensure of childcare facilities. The Department also administers the groundwater remediation efforts of Gilbert & Mosley and the North Industrial Corridor, both funded through tax increment financing districts.

DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Environmental Health consists of four major functional areas: Administrative and Support Services, Community Environmental Services, Environmental Compliance, Environmental Protection.

Administrative and Support Services

Environmental Health Administration provides overall departmental management, including budget development, planning and evaluation, program oversight, and personnel management. Support staff services include service request intake, maintenance of records and databases, processing of financial and personnel transactions, and physical plant management.

Community Environmental Services

Animal Control - The Animal Control program investigates all reported animal bites, and quarantines suspect animals to assess the risk of rabies. Animal Control officers pick up unconfined or stray dogs and issue summonses for leash law violations, remove dead animals from public streets and private property, and transport injured animals for emergency treatment. Cruelty complaints are investigated, and the section promotes responsible pet ownership through a program of public information. The Wichita Animal Shelter provides shelter



services for Wichita's program and for animal control programs operated by Sedgwick County and seven area cities of the second or third class. Shelter functions include quarantine of rabies suspect animals and housing of stray animals. A pet adoption program is also offered.

Child Care Licensure - The program evaluates, investigates and educates providers of childcare, detention services, and residential and group boarding homes for children in Sedgwick County to assure that state laws and regulations are met and that all children are safe and healthy in out-of-home care.

Food Protection and Tobacco Control - The Food Protection Program provides regulatory oversight, consultative services, and educational support for food establishments in Wichita and Sedgwick County. Food service establishment inspections are partially funded under a contract with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The Tobacco Control program regulates the sales of cigarettes and other tobacco products within the City of Wichita. Efforts are targeted toward reducing tobacco sales to minors.



A Health Department employee inspects a restaurant.

Neighborhood Environmental Code Enforcement - The Environmental Maintenance section investigates and resolves premise condition complaints involving neighborhood blight, safety, and public health. Areas of focus include trash and debris, solid waste storage, inoperable vehicles, noise, nuisance lighting, odor, animal maintenance, tall grass and weeds, open buildings and excavations, salvage materials, and surfacing sewage. Violations are resolved through voluntary compliance, referral to a private contractor for abatement, or court action.

Nuisance Abatement - The Nuisance Abatement program coordinates property cleanup by private contractors following enforcement action. Staff also investigates complaints of tall grass and weeds, and coordinates mowing by private contractors.



| Selected Service Levels - Lot Mowing and Cleanup | | | | | |
|--|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| Lots mowed | 772 | 1,237 | 1,080 | 1,100 | 1,100 |
| Lots cleaned | 169 | 430 | 386 | 400 | 400 |

| Selected Service Levels - Nuisance Abatement | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| Public premise condition complaints | 7,856 | 7,757 | 6,264 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Public complaints of tall grass/weeds | 1,262 | 2,126 | 2,515 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| Staff-initiated premise conditions cases | 979 | 1,067 | 604 | 800 | 800 |
| Staff-initiated tall grass-weed cases | 1,965 | 1,817 | 2,237 | 2,300 | 2,300 |

Environmental Compliance

The Environmental Compliance program exists to assure that City facilities are operated in accordance with local, state and federal environmental regulations, permits and plans; that operations and construction activities pose minimal impact to community health and the environment; and that natural resources are protected and preserved. The program also promotes coordination of environmental activities conducted by various City departments, and assures that inspections, reports, and enforcement operations are conducted appropriately when the City operates as a regulatory agency.

Environmental Protection

Air Quality - The Air Quality program consists of air monitoring activities and inspection of air pollution sources. Investigations of indoor air quality and ambient air pollution complaints are also conducted. The program is funded primarily through a federal EPA grant and air permit fees collected and administered by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

| Selected Service Levels - Air Quality | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| Air toxicity samples | 25 | 30 | 26 | 30 | 30 |
| Investigations of ambient (outdoor) air pollution | 27 | 25 | 66 | 40 | 40 |
| Investigations of indoor air quality | 217 | 175 | 185 | 190 | 190 |
| Investigations for Abestos Inspections | 159 | 86 | 131 | 100 | 100 |
| Permitted industrial air pollution inspections | 178 | 184 | 176 | 180 | 180 |
| Hazardous Material responses | 104 | 124 | 107 | 110 | 110 |

Environmental Assessment & Remediation - This program provides technical and administrative support for the Gilbert-Mosley and North Industrial Corridor groundwater projects. The program also investigates soil and ground water contamination on parcels involved in redevelopment projects or under consideration for purchase by the City, and coordinates routine monitoring of remediated pollution sites. Staff also responds to public requests for environmental information and processes environmental record reviews upon request. The program budget is supported by a combination of General Fund and Tax Increment Finance district funding.

Hazardous Materials Response - This program provides technical guidance and assistance to Wichita and Sedgwick County emergency response units dealing with chemical spills and releases. The unit has also possesses capabilities in the areas of chemical and biological agent detection, and serves as an integral part of the area wide Metropolitan Medical Response System.

Water Quality - This program protects water quality through sampling, monitoring, inspection, and educational activities. Efforts include sampling of private water wells to test for bacteria and nitrates, as well as permitting and inspections of on-site waste disposal systems. Water wells and on-site waste disposal systems are inspected to determine compliance with codes prior to the sale of a property. Proposals for new subdivisions without access to public water and sewer are reviewed to determine suitability for on-site water wells and waste disposal systems. Public complaints regarding faulty sewage systems or improperly constructed water wells are also investigated.

| Selected Service Levels - Water Quality | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| Private well inspections | 2,138 | 2,308 | 2,400 | 2,400 | 2,400 |
| On-site sewage system inspections | 109 | 78 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Wells/Septics real estate evaluations | 856 | 1,043 | 1,100 | 1,100 | 1,100 |
| Private water samples analyzed | 1,628 | 1,426 | 1,550 | 1,550 | 1,550 |

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

The General Fund finances the Environmental Health Department along with program revenue, contract funds (formerly grant funds), and grant support from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the Environmental Protection Agency and from the State of Kansas. Programs are funded for those services provided exclusively within the City limits and those that are provided throughout the County which are included in the City-County funding formula.



Due to department restructuring, the 2004 Revised budget includes several changes in the personal services section as follows:

- ✓ Reinstated the eliminated supervisor position and eliminate a manager position;
- ✓ All Air Quality positions are upwardly reclassified;
- ✓ All Public Health Sanitarians are upgraded, and/or reclassified to newly created positions;
- ✓ 1 PHS II is upgraded to a newly created position, Geologist;
- ✓ 1 PHS II is upgraded to a newly created Water Quality Program Supervisor position;
- ✓ Adds 1 Food Inspector (PHS I) to reflect increases in demand and support by program revenue;
- ✓ 3 PHS I positions, formerly funded by Local Environment Protection Program (LEPP), are now absorbed within the General Fund as the former funding source is no longer available;
- ✓ The Resource Analyst position is included in 2005 to reflect the physical needs and working assignments of the Environmental Education Consolidation at the Water Center. This position is transferred from Public Works, but is paid from Water & Sewer resources.

The 2004 Revised budget also included funding for the following critically needed items:

- ✓ Automatic Call Distribution telephone system conversion.
- ✓ Upgrade set-up for two replacement vans (Animal Control).
- ✓ Food handler class equipment.
- ✓ Child Care equipment.



Health staff provide instruction and assistance to help area child care providers meet licensing requirements.

FUTURE CHALLENGES

- Maintenance of air quality "attainment area" status.
- Extension of Tax Increment Financing for groundwater remediation projects.
- Long term funding stability for water quality activities.
- Animal Shelter capacity.

| Environmental Health Department Budget Summary | | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 2003 Actual | 2004 Adopted | 2004 Revised | 2005 Adopted | 2006 Approved |
| Personal Services | 2,137,827 | 2,388,830 | 2,415,860 | 2,677,890 | 2,757,970 |
| Contractual Services | 700,303 | 923,110 | 992,820 | 1,051,610 | 1,105,940 |
| Commodities | 49,808 | 56,550 | 56,550 | 61,970 | 61,470 |
| Capital Outlay | 22,080 | 2,920 | 11,170 | 47,490 | 3,000 |
| Other | 0 | 1,850 | 1,850 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Health Expenditures | 2,910,017 | 3,373,260 | 3,478,250 | 3,838,960 | 3,928,380 |
| Local Resources | 2,910,017 | 3,373,260 | 3,478,250 | 3,838,960 | 3,928,380 |
| Grant Resources | 1,094,863 | 877,860 | 1,042,980 | 949,820 | 793,000 |
| Total Health Resources | 4,004,880 | 4,251,120 | 4,521,230 | 4,788,780 | 4,721,380 |
| Total full-time positions | 64 | 65 | 65 | 66 | 66 |
| Total part-time positions | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Total FTE | 66.5 | 65.5 | 66.5 | 67.5 | 67.5 |

For additional information on the Environmental Health Department visit www.wichita.gov



Carrie Nation

A survey from 1902 showed that the City of Wichita had thirty-three saloons, three wholesale liquor houses, eighty-eight slot machines, twenty “resorts” with liquor licenses, six gambling houses and five poker rooms. The City was collecting \$4,000 per month in fines from these “illegal” establishments.

It was shortly before this – on December 27, 1900 – that Carrie Nation captured national attention for Wichita and for the Women’s Christian Temperance Union by storming into the Carey Hotel bar where she proceeded to destroy the bar, glasses on the bar, the mirror behind the bar, and a risqué painting. At six foot and one-hundred eighty-five pounds, she was not easily subdued. She was charged with malicious destruction of property, but the case was later dropped in court. In 1901, Ms. Nation wrecked two more Wichita saloons.

Source: *Wichita Police Department, 1871-2000; pg. 28.*